THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Rifampicin bulk drug is yet to be produced in the country. Formulations are being manufactured based on imported bulk drug.

(b) Letter of Intent granted are under various stages of implementation.

(c) Details such as quantity and value of imports of Rifampicin since 1981-82 are as under:—

Year	Imports (Kgs.)	Value (Rs. Lakhs) (cif)
1981-82 . . .	16,065	4,126.97
1982-83 . . .	36,897	3,267.66
1983-84 . . .	75,546	2,104.43

(d) Among the reasons for the delays in commencing production are the size of investment and difficulties in securing economically viable technology. In order to encourage the production of Rifampicin recently Government have delicensed Rifampicin for non-FERA-non-MRTP companies and totally exempted the custom duty on the import of 3 formyl Rifamycin, Rifamycin-S which are intermediates for the production of Rifampicin.

Unauthorised Manufacture of Drugs

529. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has recently come to light that a large number of drugs and formulations are, being manufactured and marketed in the country by certain foreign and public sector undertakings without any valid approval of the Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c) On a scrutiny of the data received from Drug Companies in connection with their applications for recognition/ reendorsement of capacity it was noticed that 432 items were being manufactured by 29 companies with industrial approvals of doubtful validity. An Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMWG) was set up in 1982 to go into the question of production of drugs without valid industrial approvals and to suggest the possible lines of action that may be taken. The constitution of IMWG was considered necessary because of many reasons such as wide-spread nature of the problem, production for a long time and the possibility of hardship being caused to the patients if production of some of the formulations is stopped. The IMWG has since submitted its report. The Government have yet to take a final decision on the recommendations of the IMWG.

Indigenous production of chemicals and Intermediates

530. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due consideration was given to the indigenous production of chemicals and intermediates while expanding the OGL List;

(b) whether in view of the above there is wide spread anxiety in a section of Chemical Industry of the country; and

(c) if so, what safeguards Government contemplate in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c)